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#### 04.10002      Scope

This policy will apply to all proposed projects for the Save Our Rivers (SOR) program.

#### 04.10003      Purpose

The objective of SOR is to acquire necessary interests in lands for water management, water supply or the conservation and protection of water resources. The purpose of this policy is to identify District management principles and direction regarding SOR project evaluation and selection criteria.

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04.10004      References

SFWMD Policy:

Real Estate Property Acquisitions	04.600
Real Estate Appraisal	04.301
Land Management	05.001

Florida Statutes:


Water Management Lands Trust Fund	
Florida Resources River Act	§373.59
Florida Preservation 2000 Act	§259.101

Florida Administrative Code:

Water Management Lands Trust Fund	17-42
Miscellaneous Provisions	40E-7
Save Our Rivers Five Year Plan	40E-7

04.10005      Definitions

Acquisition	Acquiring title to land in fee; or in the discretion of the District, such other legal interest necessary for water management, water supply, or the conservation and protection of water resources.
Board	The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District.
Department	The Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
District	The South Florida Water Management District.
Plan	The Five Year Plan as approved by the Board.
Secretary	The secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection.
Selection	The process of identifying and evaluating proposed projects for the inclusion in the Five Year Plan.

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SOR                                      The Save Our Rivers program as provided under Section 373.59, Florida Statutes.

SOR Project                              A geographical area possessing unique features necessary for water management, water supply, and the conservation and protection of water resources.


Florida Preservation 2000              Section 259.101, Florida Statutes, providing for the proceeds of bonds deposited in the Florida Preservation 2000 Trust Fund and for criteria for certain projects financed by such proceeds.

Water Management  
Lands Trust Fund                      (WMLTF), Section 373.59, Florida Statutes, providing revenue from the Documentary Tax Stamp to acquire and manage authorized SOR projects.

#### 04.10007      History


This document originally included policy statements regarding the preparation and review of appraisals and acquiring real estate. This information may be found in the Real Estate Appraisal Policy (04.301) and the Real Estate Property Acquisitions Policy (04.600).

Revision 2 of this policy included project selection guidelines and priority project criteria. This information may be found in the Save Our Rivers Guidelines (04.101). SOR procedural items may be found in Save Our Rivers Procedures (04.102). Information on the preparation of the Five Year Plan is outlined in the Save Our Rivers Method (04.103). All policy statements embedded in material cut from this document have been added to the Statement of Policy section (04.10010) of this policy.


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04.1010      Statement of Policy

1. The Governing Board recognizes a need to provide guidelines for selecting projects to be considered under the Resource Rivers Act (Section 373.59, Florida Statutes), which is also known as the Save Our Rivers (SOR) program. These guidelines include procedures for project selection and land acquisition and are intended as an additional and complementary to Rule 40E-7, Florida Administrative Code.
2. It is the Governing Board's intention to implement SOR in a manner that will provide long-term benefit to the citizens living within the District as well as the water resources of the District.
3. It is the goal of this program to identify, prioritize, and acquire necessary interests in lands for water management, water supply and the conservation and protection of water resources.
4. In compliance with Section 373.59, Florida Statutes, the District will file an annual Five Year Plan with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Legislature.
5. Funding for SOR is derived from revenue and Preservation 2000 Bond proceeds collected from the documentary stamp tax, and it is administered by the Department of Environmental Protection as provided for by Rule 17-402, Florida Administrative Code.
6. To most effectively administer SOR, the District will closely coordinate with all other public land acquisition programs.
7. Through its regulatory programs, the District shall apply the same regulatory criteria to lands being considered for acquisition/protection under SOR, as it does to similar lands not being considered for acquisition/protection.
8. The District's regulatory program shall not be used for the purpose of controlling or valuing of lands to be considered for acquisition/protection under the SOR program, notwithstanding normal effects of regulations on land values.

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9. It is the policy of the Governing Board that inclusion of a property in the Five Year Plan, pursuant to Section 373.59, Florida Statutes, does not reflect a definite intention by the South Florida Water Management District to acquire said property. Inclusion in the Five Year Plan indicates that the subject property has acquisition potential depending upon further investigation as to its water resources, environmental and management features and negotiation of a mutually acceptable acquisition price.
  
10. Projects eligible for selection include, but are not limited to:
  - River and stream flood plains and flood ways
  - River and stream flood hazard areas
  - Littoral zones
  - Springs and lakes
  - Aquifer recharge areas
  - Wetlands
  - Wellfields
  - Unique water features
  - Appropriate buffer zones
  - Lands needed to retain or store water
  
11. Legislatively mandated projects for the South Florida Water Management District, funded by monies from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund include:
  - A. Water Conservation Areas
  - B. Nicodemus Slough
  - C. Savannas
  
12. The Land Evaluation Matrix or the SOR Selection Criteria for Water Resources Projects shall be used to screen and categorize prospective additions to the Five Year Plan. Any land acquisition will require prior Governing Board approval of the subject Plan with the exception of any boundary modifications less than five (5) percent of the project area, not to exceed 100 acres. These boundary modifications will be presented to the Governing Board as part of the annual reports.

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13. An Acquisition Plan and Status Report, as required by Section 373.59, Florida Statutes, shall be prepared by the Construction and Land Management Department (CLM) and presented to the Governing Board annually, or more frequently, if considered necessary by the Board or CLM.
14. The Board shall annually adopt an update on the Five Year Plan and after adoption, the projects approved shall be incorporated in a report and it will be made available to the public.

04.10020      Responsibilities

CLM shall be responsible for receiving and evaluating all suggestions for selection of projects under SOR. CLM will consult with the Planning Department and the Regulation Department in evaluating proposals using SOR project evaluation and selection criteria.

CLM shall circulate for comment to each Department within the District the SOR project applications with the Land Stewardship technical evaluations prior to holding public meetings.

To obtain public comment, CLM shall schedule regular and widely publicized public meetings on all proposed projects prior to making recommendations to the Governing Board.

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04.1097      Delegation of Authority

Delegation of Authority		Type of Authority
From	To	
Governing Board	Director, Construction and Land Management Department	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Authority to receive and evaluate all suggestions for selection of projects under SOR program.</li> <li>2. Authority to approve suggested projects for consideration.</li> <li>3. Authority to provide direction to the SOR Program for the development of policies.</li> <li>4. Authority to incorporate and prioritize projects currently on District Strategic Plan with SOR Five Year Plan.</li> <li>5. Authority to direct the administration of Preservation 2000 requirements.</li> <li>6. Authority to present proposals for selection of projects to include in Five Year Plan to Governing Board.</li> <li>7. Authority to prepare the Acquisition Plan and Status Report annually, or more frequently, if necessary.</li> </ol>